

Visions in the Night

“This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”

Zechariah 4:6 (NIV)

AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR DEFEATED PEOPLE - October/November 520 B.C.
(Messages of Haggai, 8/29/520 B.C.; 10/17; 11/18)

God often gives similar messages from varied sources in the same time frame to reinforce his message.

Religious activity can never replace a heart for God.

IMPORTANT VISIONS THAT MOTIVATED CONTINUED WORK

Zechariah’s eight night visions

Horses and Myrtles (1:7-17)	Israel blessed and restored
Horns and Craftsmen (1:18-20)	The punishers punished
The Measuring Line (2:1-13)	The city walled only by God; protected and prosperous; enemies vanquished
High Priest in Clean Clothes (3:1-10)	External <i>and</i> internal deliverance
Lampstand and Olive Trees (4:1-14)	God’s Spirit, not man’s power the key to success
Flying Scroll (5:1-4)	The pure justice of God on unrepentant evildoers
Woman in a Basket (5:5-11)	The removal of sin and rebellion – God’s forgiveness
Four Chariots (6:1-8)	The God’s sovereignty; his will prevails

Two visions to bring it home
The Priest and his Garments (Zech 3)

A desire to change can't undo the past; there must be forgiveness.

God's forgiveness is rooted in the sacrifice of a single day.

Our forgiveness by God implies a new reason for living.

Of Lampstands and Olive Trees (Zech 4)
"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit ..." (4:6)

Not by might implies that we can do less than we think.

By my Spirit implies that we can do more than we think.

When God is in it, there are no small things.

A CERTAIN FUTURE – ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE LONG HAUL

As you look back over today's message, what is your take away? In one short phrase or sentence, jot down your sharable statement as to how your attitude, your heart, or your actions might be transformed if you put it into practice.

Small Group Homework
For the week of November 1, 2015

GETTING TO KNOW YOU ...

If you could do anything for a day, what would it be?

THINKING ABOUT SUNDAY ...

Do you remember a time when messages at church, life situations, and messages on the radio or T.V. all seemed to dovetail into a common theme? When that happened what was your response, or what do you think it should be when it happens again?

This week we're going to look back at some specific visions that seemed to be at the pinnacle of Zechariah's night visions.

The Priest's New Clothes

1. Read Zechariah 1:2-4; 3:1-2.

Zechariah 1:2-4 (NIV). "The LORD was very angry with your ancestors. ³ Therefore tell the people: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me,' declares the LORD Almighty, 'and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty. ⁴ Do not be like your ancestors, to whom the earlier prophets proclaimed: This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Turn from your evil ways and your evil practices.' But they would not listen or pay attention to me, declares the LORD.

Zechariah 3:1-2 (NIV). Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right side to accuse him. ² The LORD said to Satan, "The LORD rebuke you, Satan! The LORD, who has chosen Jerusalem, rebuke you! Is not this man a burning stick snatched from the fire?"

Why is Joshua being accused?

What does it mean "a man snatched from the fire?"

What should our attitude be toward others snatched from the fire? (Do you see a Zechariah connection?) Jude 22-23 (NIV). Be merciful to those who doubt; ²³ save others by snatching them from the fire; to others show mercy, mixed with fear—hating even the clothing stained by corrupted flesh.

Looking at Zechariah 3:8-9, comparing it with Jude 22-23, have you ever found yourself in the position of being symbolic of Christ? What do you think that means?

Zechariah 3:8–9 (NIV) “ ‘Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch. ⁹ See, the stone I have set in front of Joshua! There are seven eyes on that one stone, and I will engrave an inscription on it,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and I will remove the sin of this land in a single day.

Lampstands and Olive Trees

2. Read Zechariah 4:1-6. Are you as confused as Zechariah was?

Without trying to figure out the vision, what did God say it represented?

Zechariah 4:6–7 (NIV). So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.

“What are you, mighty mountain? Before Zerubbabel you will become level ground. Then he will bring out the capstone to shouts of ‘God bless it! God bless it!’ ”

What is the point of Zechariah’s exclamation after he brings the final stone that completes the project?

The project was like a mighty mountain, impossible to scale to Zechariah. What is your mountain?

What are some practical ways in which you find yourself relying on your own strength and power instead of the God’s Spirit?

What are some practical ways in which you can actively rely on God’s Spirit *instead of* your own power?

What does it mean when it says that people despise the day of small things? What are the great things that you tend to call small?

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